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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/588,951	08/10/2006	Masato Saito	SAIT3007/GAL	9758

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EXAMINER	
AHMED, SHEEBA	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1794	
MAIL DATE	**DELIVERY MODE**
10/08/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/588,951	SAITO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SHEEBA AHMED	1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *8/10/06*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Amendment

1. The preliminary amendment filed on August 10, 2006 amends claims 3, 4 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11. New claims 12-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 are now pending and under consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagami (US 2003/0180529).

Nagami discloses an anti-Newton ring sheet comprising an anti-Newton ring layer containing binder resin and particles, and formed on at least one surface of a transparent polymer film, wherein the particles are monodisperse spherical particles having a mean particle diameter of not less than 0.4 microns and not more than 2.0 microns and are contained in an amount of not less than 0.5 parts by weight and not more than 3 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the binder resin. The anti-Newton ring sheet which can be used for optical sheets such as a light diffusing sheet suitable for a backlight unit of a liquid crystal display (See Abstract). Specifically, an anti-Newton ring sheet comprises an anti-Newton ring layer formed on at least one surface of a transparent polymer film. The thickness of such a transparent polymer film

is suitably selected depending on the material, but is generally 25-500 microns (Paragraph 008). Suitable examples of such monodisperse spherical particles include inorganic particles such as spherical silica particles, synthetic resin particles such as spherical acrylic resin particles, spherical polystyrene resin particles, spherical polyurethane resin particles, spherical polyethylene resin particles, spherical benzoguanamine resin particles, and spherical epoxy resin particles. As the binder resin, ones having optical transparency such as thermoplastic resins, thermosetting resins, ionizing radiation curable resins can be used. Examples of such resins include polyester resins, acrylic resins, polyester acrylate resins, polyurethane acrylate resins, epoxy acrylate resins, cellulose resins, acetal resins, vinyl resins, polyethylene resins, polystyrene resins, polypropylene resins, polyamide resins, polyimide resins, melamine resins, phenol resins, silicone resins, fluorine resins. Among them, acrylic resins having good weathering resistance and high transparency, in particular two-part curable type acrylic polyurethanes, are preferable (Paragraph 21). The thickness of the anti-Newton ring layer is not particularly limited so far as it exhibits its function but is in the range of 1-20 microns (Paragraph 21). When the anti-Newton ring sheet is used as an optical sheet such as a light diffusing sheet, an optical function layer such as a light diffusing layer is formed on the surface opposite to the surface on which the anti-Newton ring layer is provided. As the optical function layer, there can be mentioned a light diffusing layer, prism layer, anti-reflection layer, polarizing layer, reflection layer and so forth (Paragraph 23). As shown in FIG. 3, an optical film having an anti-Newton ring property can be incorporated as a light diffusing sheet into a backlight unit 20 constructed by

laminating a light diffusing sheet 23, a light guide plate 22 and a reflection sheet 21 as shown in FIG. 3, and is capable of preventing occurrence of Newton rings without scratching the contact surface even if it is brought into contact with a light guide plate made of a relatively soft material. With regards to the haze limitations, the Examiner takes the position that the anti-Newton layer taught by Nagami would have the same haze as claimed given that the structure and chemical composition of the anti-Newton layer as taught by Nagami and that of the claimed invention are identical.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEEBA AHMED whose telephone number is (571)272-1504. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on (571)272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sheeba Ahmed/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794